The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) of the U.S. Department of Interior funded the establishment of the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI). The Institute is a collaborative initiative between the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station's (TEES) Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, partnering with Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston. The institute will facilitate research and development, training of federal workers on identification and verification of Best Available and Safest Technology (BAST), and implementation of operational improvements enabling safe and environmentally responsible offshore energy operations.

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enabling safe and environmentally responsible offshore energy operations
MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

- The mission of the OESI is to provide a forum for dialogue, shared learning, and cooperative research among academia, government, industry, and other non-governmental organizations, in offshore energy-related technologies and activities that ensure safe and environmentally responsible offshore operations.
- While there have been efforts to identify scientific and technological gaps and to recommend improvement of drilling and production equipment, practices, and regulation, the OESI will strive to coordinate and focus these work products.

RESEARCH

- OESI will report on the status of research activities related to offshore oil and gas exploration and production technology and identify key technological and regulatory gaps in that research.
- OESI will facilitate the development and funding of research projects.
- OESI will ensure the broad dissemination of the state of science for all ongoing research.
- OESI will assess best international industry practices that are being used globally in the offshore oil and gas industry.
- OESI will also identify risk assessment methodologies that are being used globally in the offshore industry or other industries and facilitate the development of new models to measure and assess risk in offshore oil and gas drilling and production operations.

COLLABORATION AND TRAINING

- OESI will hold forums and workshops to share information with industry, government, and the public on issues related to offshore research and best practices.
- OESI will involve employees of the Federal agencies in research and training to enable the employees to remain current on state-of-the-art technology associated with offshore oil and gas exploration development.

BAST

- OESI will form a balanced panel of technical experts to make recommendations to BSEE on issues related to emerging technologies and BAST.
- OESI will also provide recommendations to BSEE on which domestic facilities are capable and available to conduct testing on the candidate technologies, work with standards organizations to develop testing protocols, review test results and provide recommendations on BAST performance levels to the Director.

WHY BE PART OF OESI

- Participate in the determination of priorities and direction of OESI
- Leverage world-class research programs
- Active interaction with Industry, NGOs, Academia, and Regulators
- Enhanced dialogue with all members of Ocean Energy community
- Access to next generation of Ocean Energy expertise